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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00648 020744Z

43
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 RSC-01 /017 W
---------- 083221
R 010043Z NOV 74
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3790

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID GT BH
SUBJECT: VISIT OF AID EMPLOYEES TO BELIZE

REF: (A) BELIZE 624
(B) GUATEMALA 5884

1. AID/G'S DECISION TO POSTPONE BENQUE VIEJO VISIT UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS MUCH APPRECIATED.

2. AS FOR NECESSITY OF COMMUNICATIONS SUGGESTED PARAGRAPH TWO OF REF. A., THERE ARE DOUBTLESS OTHER WAYS OF FULFILLING WHAT SEEMS TO ME TO BE AN ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE, NAMELY, THAT APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES HERE BE APPRISED OF VISIT IN ADVANCE, PARTLY TO AVOID ANY RISK OF RUFFLED SENSITIVITIES BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANTLY TO ALLOW PROSPECTIVE BELIZEAN INTERLOCUTORS TO PREPARE THEMSELVES TO ANSWER TECHNICAL AND POSSIBLY OTHER QUESTIONS WHICH WOULD SEEM TO ME TO BE ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING PURPOSE OF VISIT, WHICH, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IS TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF PROJECT. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION THAT ADEQUATE AND AUTHORITATIVE ANSWERS TO SUCH QUESTIONS ARE UNLIKELY TO BE OBTAINED BY MEANS OF AN IMPROMPTU VISIT TO BENQUE VIEJO.

3. GOVERNOR POSNETT TOLD ME LAST WEEK HE HAD SENT A MEMORANDUM ABOUT THIS PROJECT TO THE MINISTER OF POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS (COPY OF WHICH HE HAS SINCE SENT TO ME) EXPRESSING THE VIEW THAT "BEFORE THE AMERICANS COME, WE SHOULD LIKE TO HAVE PARTICULARS OF THE LOAD AND QUANTITIES OF ELECTRICAL POWER WHICH
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THEY WOULD WANT TO TAKE FROM BENQUE AND ANY DETAILS ABOUT THE

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TIMES OF DAY AT WHICH THE LOAD WOULD BE HIGH." GOVERNOR WAS ALSO OF THE OPINION CONGEN WAS THE APPROPRIATE CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE SOUGHT, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED DESIRABILITY OF EMPHASIZING JOINT BELIZE-GUATEMALA NATURE OF PROJECT.

4. I DO NOT THINK IT MATTERS TO THE GOVERNOR WHETHER HE RECEIVES REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE VISIT AND INFORMATION REQUESTED THROUGH CONGEN OR VIA SOME OTHER CHANNEL (SUCH AS VIA BRITISH CONSUL IN GUATEMALA). ALSO, I RECOGNIZE THE POSSIBILITY THAT INFORMATION HE WANTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL AFTER TECHNICIANS VISIT HOSPITAL. IF LATTER IS THE CASE, HOWEVER, I SHOULD THINK GOVERNOR MIGHT BE TOLD THAT VISITORS WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE REQUISITE TECHNICAL DATA BY THE TIME THEY VISIT BENQUE VIEJO. IN ANY EVENT, I WOULD THINK THAT DATE OF VISIT SHOULD BE CLEARED WITH GOVERNOR AND THAT HIS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO HAVE BASIC TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHOULD BE DEALT WITH SOMEHOW. GAWF

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